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Editor-in-Chief of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### THE CONGRESS

THE Third International Congress has become an event of the past, but the influence of this great gathering of nurses from many countries will be felt until the end of time.

The programme of the meetings was carried out with few changes. It being the week of mourning for our late President McKinley, the sessions were conducted with dignity and an absence of levity befitting the occasion. Each society at its executive meeting opened its proceedings with the passage of a resolution of sympathy for Mrs. McKinley, and Mrs. George W. Townsend, president of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, prefaced her address of welcome to the Congress with the following beautiful and appropriate remarks:

"We meet under the shadow of a nation's grief, but there is a sad comfort in the thought that all good work must go on. I am reminded of the beautiful and significant epitaph to the great Wesley brothers in Westminster Abbey: 'God takes away the workers, but carries on the work.'"

Five hundred nurses entered their names in the register. The arrangements for the guests were most satisfactory, and that such a series of meetings, beginning on Monday morning and lasting until Saturday afternoon, were conducted without complication or confusion is a tribute to the fine organization of the Buffalo Nurses' Club and to Miss Damer, its president, who was the chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.

The presence of so large a delegation from other countries was a greatly added interest to the Congress, and they were a representative and most interesting body of women.

The final meeting, held in the Temple of Music at the Exposition grounds, was an occasion to be remembered for a lifetime. This magnificent great auditorium was filled to the walls when the meeting was called to order. The music of the organ gave the guests their first welcome. Mayor Diehl, of Buffalo, and Mrs. John Miller Horton gave the addresses of welcome, and the programme consisted of three papers by members of the foreign delegation, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, of London, giving "A Plea for the Higher Education of Nurses," Miss Louise Stevenson, a delegate from the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, speaking on similar lines, and Miss C. J. Wood, a delegate from thirteen societies of nurses in England, closing with "A Retrospect and a Forecast."

Miss Isla Stewart, president of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, bestowed upon Miss McIsaac the badge of honorary membership in that society, and the heart of every American nurse was filled with pride that the president of the Congress should be so honored. It was a pretty ceremony, to which Miss McIsaac responded gracefully, saying in part that, while she accepted with pleasure and gratification the honor done her in the bestowal of this badge, she also felt that the honor was not to herself alone, but was a tribute from the English nurse to the American nurses.

The exercises closed by the singing of "America," led by Brooke's Band, of Chicago.

A number of nurses in the uniform of different schools acted as ushers, adding much to the artistic effect. Captain Munson, with the men from the Hospital Corps of the United States Army stationed in the Exposition Grounds, were guests of the occasion, and after the meeting escorted the nurses across the plaza to the green behind the government buildings, where an exhibition of battle-field methods of removing the wounded was given and greatly appreciated by all present. The reception given by the Women's Board of Managers of the Pan-American Exposition was the closing event of the week, and in the attractive rooms of the Woman's Building old friends and new bade each other "good-by," with mutual expressions of regret that the Congress was over.

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### THE NEW YEAR

THE Congress of Nurses in Buffalo, coming at the close of our business year, has delayed the announcement of the plans for the JOURNAL until the November number, as it has been necessary that the Periodical Committee, the editorial staff, and the members of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING Company should confer together before these plans could be matured.

Moreover, those members of the JOURNAL committees who were officers of the Congress have been unable to give the necessary attention to this subject until the affairs of the Congress should be off their hands.

However, we do not feel that the welfare of the JOURNAL has suffered by this delay, as so much has been gained in its interest by the conference referred to and by the new friends and supporters that have been made for it by the Congress.

During the first year of the existence of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING the effort of those most interested has been to make the magazine a professional success.

This, we feel proud to say, has been accomplished, and our JOURNAL has earned the reputation of being dignified in character, and of having a high professional status on a broad educational basis.

Its professional success in this first year has been infinitely greater than had been anticipated by its supporters, and the need of the JOURNAL having been proven, its managers go forward with renewed courage and satisfaction, knowing that both the nursing and the general public are appreciating their efforts.

Such a journal as ours cannot be issued without a large outlay. There has been much hard labor and a free expenditure of money to bring the JOURNAL up to its present stage of development.

The JOURNAL has earned the cost of its own manufacture; by that we mean the cost of paper, printing, mailing, and business management, and the work of the editorial staff, as has been stated before in these pages, has been entirely gratuitous, with the exception of the services of the Editor-in-Chief since June first. THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING Company, which it was necessary to organize that the JOURNAL should have a legalized financial backing, has paid the salary of the editor since that date.

Having established the professional reputation of the JOURNAL, more time must now be devoted to the business development of the enterprise, that the

editors and officers may be properly compensated for their work, and that all original articles may be paid for. In this we ask again for the coöperation of the *alumnæ* members.

No one of our large cities has yet been thoroughly canvassed. There are hundreds of nurses working along in their own quiet way who have never heard of the *JOURNAL*.

Systematic canvassing is to be provided for, but we ask each *alumnæ* member who is already a subscriber to do what she can in her own circle to increase the subscription-list.

We ask members of the *alumnæ* who are hospital superintendents to patronize our advertisers so far as lies within their power, and to recommend the *JOURNAL* as a valuable advertising medium to the dealers in hospital supplies with whom they are in the habit of transacting business.

There are to be some changes in the form of the *JOURNAL*, beginning with the present number, and in place of the large editorial staff there will be a number of collaborators, the list to include nearly all of the editors of the past year, with a number of well-known women whose names will be given in full in the next number.

One new department to be added in November we will mention as being of special interest,—that of "Notes from the Medical Press," which will aim to give in condensed form such new methods and scientific medical facts as are necessary for the nurse in the most intelligent care of the sick. This department will be in charge of Miss Elizabeth R. Scovil, who needs no introduction to the nurses of this country.

We also ask our subscribers to make their renewals promptly as their year expires.

The present number of the *JOURNAL* has fewer pages than usual, but in reality contains the average amount of reading-matter because of the space gained in doing away with so many department headings, and in the use of a uniformly smaller type in all of the special departments, when the text is made up of items, or short papers. The *bulk* of the *JOURNAL* had gone to press before Congress week, and the editor was unable to judge of the number of pages that would be required by the secretaries of the different societies for their official reports, consequently she could not take advantage of the space gained by change of form to increase the contents of the *JOURNAL*, as it is intended to do in future.

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### THOSE QUACK NURSING-SCHOOLS

WE wish every nurse in the land might read Miss Dock's letter of protest against quack nursing-schools.

If we are overridden in our strife for a professional status for nurses, it will be because of the indifference of the masses in regard to everything outside of the little treadmill of private nursing. Go the world over, and there cannot be found a more intelligent, conscientious body of wage-earners than the women of the nursing profession,—reliable, painstaking, and trusted where other people's business is the one in hand, but indifferent to apathy towards the vital questions that threaten the very foundation of our professional standards. It may be self-abnegation, but we have all learned the lesson that charity *best* begins at home.

**MISS MARY E. P. DAVIS**

BEHIND every successful enterprise there is always the guiding power of one strong mind,—a person who through his officers and subordinates plans the outline of action and makes the final decision in every question of doubt.

Such a person is usually felt more than he is seen.

The person representing the "power behind the throne" in the JOURNAL enterprise has been least before the public of all those interested in the scheme.

It needed the courage of Miss Mary E. P. Davis, chairman of the Periodical Committee of the Associated Alumnae and president and treasurer of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING Company, to give the JOURNAL life. To her undaunted courage, her business ability, and organizing power the JOURNAL owes its start.

Before the first number was issued she had obtained hundreds of subscribers, thus securing a fund to meet the expenses of the first numbers.

Miss Davis is by birth a native of New Brunswick, but has claimed Boston as her home for more than a quarter of a century. She graduated from the Training-School for Nurses connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital in the Class of '78, and has engaged in every kind of nursing work, her most important position having been that of superintendent of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, which position she held for ten years, and it was during her administration that this hospital was reorganized and enlarged. Miss Davis has been conspicuous in the nursing progress of the day, and has held office in both of our national organizations.

The editor graduated in the same class with Miss Davis, since which time they have been warm friends.

She has had experience both in private nursing and executive positions, and claims to bring to the JOURNAL, in addition to a varied professional experience, but one talent,—a capacity for sustained drudgery, which is an inheritance from a long line of New England ancestors.

No one person can claim credit for the literary success of the JOURNAL, as many minds have contributed to it, the opportunity only being needed for the latent ability in the profession to manifest itself.

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**CONGRESS PAPERS**

HAVING devoted the entire September number to Congress matters, we have delayed the October number only long enough to include the reports of the official proceedings of the different societies represented and the addresses of Miss McIsaac and Mrs. Fenwick. The Congress papers are all to appear in the JOURNAL during the year, and will be gotten out in book form, with the discussions, later on; but this work, which is in the hands of the Congress Committee, must necessarily take some time, and we will announce in a later number where orders may be sent for this volume. Every nurse who attended the Congress will certainly wish to own this book, and no training-school library will be complete without it.

It is not our intention to follow the Congress programme in giving the papers, but to select them with reference to both classes of readers—the hospital superintendent and the private nurse. In the November number we shall give the two papers on "Opportunities and Responsibilities of the Graduate Nurse of To-Day," the first paper by Miss K. de Witte, of Chicago, Ill.; the second paper by Miss Linda Richards, of Taunton, Mass., the pioneer nurse of America, also a paper by Mrs. Rogers, of Bridgeport, Conn., on "Private Nursing Hours, Remuneration, etc."



Miss Wood, London  
Miss McGahey, Sydney, Aus. Miss Stewart, Lon.

Miss Arkle, Australia  
Mrs. Bedford-Fenwick, Lon.

Miss Hughes, England Miss Mollert, England Miss Cartwright, London Miss Waland, England  
Miss McIsaac, Chicago Miss Keating, Buffalo Miss Damer, Buffalo Miss Banfield, Phila.

Miss Striveley, Toronto

#### FOREIGN DELEGATES AND OFFICERS

International Congress of Nurses, Buffalo, September 18-21, 1901